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OFFICE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

21 July 1950

TO: EXO

FROM: Information Control/OSO

SUBJECT: Proposed Plan for Realignment of Certain Agency Functions

Ref. Para. 2:

1. The reassignment of the Requirements Staff from OCD to two staffs under joint control is, as admitted, administratively unsound and is at best a makeshift arrangement.

2. The elimination of an OCD middleman between ORE/OSI and OSO, where ORE and OSI requirements are concerned, is desirable. In practice the existing staffs are even now largely staffs which only record and delay since a fundamental agreement in advance by OSO officers with ORE/OSI desk officers is the correct basis for realistic requirement collection action. However, it is recognized that ORE and OSI will require control points of some sort.

3. The elimination of an OCD middleman between IAC requesters and OSO is in no way improved by substituting ORE/OSI middlemen. Aside from the continuance of middleman groups, strenuously objected to by IAC requesters, this has the additional disadvantage of permitting ORE/OSI to interpret IAC requests to OSO, and ORE and OSI are naturally inclined to feel that their own requests are the important ones. The retention of this function in OCD has at least the advantage of assigning requirements to a disinterested staff. If the proposed reassignment is made it must be clearly understood that ORE/OSI will not change the original IAC requirements and will write any ORE/OSI requirements only as additions. It must also be understood that direct liaison between OSO and IAC agencies is absolutely necessary to make practical the requirements visited on OSO by them. In certain cases where the requests are for service or operational information no record of this should appear in ORE/OSI staffs.

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Ref. Para. 3:

4. No disadvantage is seen in the transfer of overt collection activities to OO, although no particular advantage is apparent. No disadvantage is seen in the transfer of the Presentation Division to OO. However, the advisability of continuing wholesale lectures by State, Army, Navy, and Air personnel should be reviewed. These have long constituted a security hazard to OSO; they have been objected to on numerous occasions by the lecturers, and they are an obvious invitation to idleness to the lecture hounds. A sounder approach would be to arrange interviews, and then only when absolutely required.

5. Concur in Staff A objections to proposed redesignation "Office of Covert Operations".

Ref. Para. 4:

6. Agree.

Ref. Para. 5:

7. Probably all right, but for EXO to comment.

Ref. Para. 6:

8. Objection is made in the strongest terms to "OCD" continuing Dissemination functions as such. Reports should be distributed directly by originating Offices. The present system has only one characteristic, delay, without any compensating merit. OCD has no greater knowledge of what customers desire than originating Offices. By reason of direct OSO and OO contacts it frequently has much less. The burden of complaints by receiving agencies is usually visited directly on the originating Offices, and OSO is conscious of the loss of intelligence value in reports caused by even minimum delay in distribution; under no conditions should OCD be granted the authority of exclusive distribution. Indeed, on the contrary, consideration should be given to the improvement by technical means (possibly teletype) of direct distribution by all originating Offices.

9. It is proposed that OCD be redesignated the Office of Reference and that a small group be established within it to constitute a body (1) to receive and review general requests for reports and to forward them to appropriate originating Offices; (2) to review periodically dissemination practices; (3) to maintain central records of distribution. This group could best function, under the Chairmanship of OCD, as a committee of representatives of the Offices.

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10. Discussion of the transfer of certain OO functions to OSO should be made by the other staffs and by EXO.

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Chief, ICS/OSO

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